

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4970

INFO AMEMBASSY SAIGON IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T TAIPEI 2256

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AEMR, VS, TW

SUBJECT: FORMER RVN PRESIDENT THIEU ARRIVES IN TAIPEI

1. ON APRIL 26 AT APPROXIMATELY 0420 LOCAL TIME FORMER RVN PRESIDENT NGUYEN VAN THIEU, FORMER PRIME MINISTER TRAN THIEN KHIEM, AND TEN OTHERS ARRIVED BY US AIR FORCE C-118 AT SUNG SHAN MILITARY AIRPORT, TAIPEI. THEY WERE MET BY A MOFA DELEGATION HEADED BY ROC FOREIGN MINISTER SHEN CHANG-HUAN, AMBASSADOR UNGER, AND MEMBERS OF THE RVN EMBASSY INCLUDING THE WIFE AND SON OF AMBASSADOR NGUYEN VAN KIEU, WHO REPORTEDLY WILL RETURN FROM SAIGON LATER TODAY.

2. OTHERS IN THE PARTY ARRIVING FROM SAIGON WERE COLONEL VO VAN CAM, COLONEL NHAN VAN THIET, COLONEL TRAN THANH DIEN, COLONEL NGUYEN VAN DUC, LT. COLONEL TON THAT AI-CHIEU, MAJOR HO VUONG MINH, LT COLONEL DANG VAN CHAU, LT.COLONEL DINH SON THONG, LT. COLONEL NGUYEN TAN THAN, AND DANG VU.

3. AIRCREW GAVE PAROLE DOCUMENTS FOR ALL OF THE ABOVE TO AMBASSADOR UNGER, AND THE DOCUMENTS WERE SUBSEQUENTLY HANDED OVER TO RVN EMBASSY THIRD SECRETARY NGUYEN NGOC HO ON APRIL 26.

4. FOR SAIGON AND DEPT: IN EXAMINING THE PAROLE

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DOCUMENTS WE NOTED THAT THE DOCUMENT ORIGINALLY PREPARED

FOR A TRAN VAN PHAN HAD HIS NAME INKED OUT AND HAD SUBSTITUTED THE NAME OF LT. COLONEL NGUYEN LIN THAN. WE ALSO NOTED THAT SIX PEOPLE -- COL. VO VAN CAM, COL. NHAN VAN THIET, COL. TRAN THANH DIEN, COL. NGUYEN VAN DUC, LT. COL. TON THAT AI-CHIEU, AND MAJOR HO VUONG MINH-- ARE INCLUDE JOINTLY ON ONE DOCUMENT IN THREE IDENTICAL ORIGINALS; IN THIS CASE ALSO NAMES ARE HANDWRITTEN.

5. WE OF COURSE ARE NOT FULLY AWARE OF THE EMERGENCY PROCEDURES ESTABLISHED FOR ISSUING PAROLE DOCUMENTS IN SAIGON, BUT WISHED TO BRING THESE APPARENT DISCREPANCIES TO YOUR NOTICE IN CASE THEY MIGHT RESULT IN DIFFICULTIES IN OBTAINING ENTRY TO THE US.

6. WE DO NOT KNOW WHEN ANY MEMBERS OF THE PARTY PLAN TO LEAVE TAIPEI FOR THE US BUT WILL KEEP YOU INFORMED AS INFORMATION BECOMES AVAILABLE. UNGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 APR 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: izenbei0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975TAIPEI02256
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750147-0027
From: TAIPEI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750412/aaaaalli.tel
Line Count: 78
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: izenbei0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <25 JUL 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <21 NOV 2003 by izenbei0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FORMER RVN PRESIDENT THIEU ARRIVES IN TAIPEI
TAGS: AEMR, VS, TW
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006